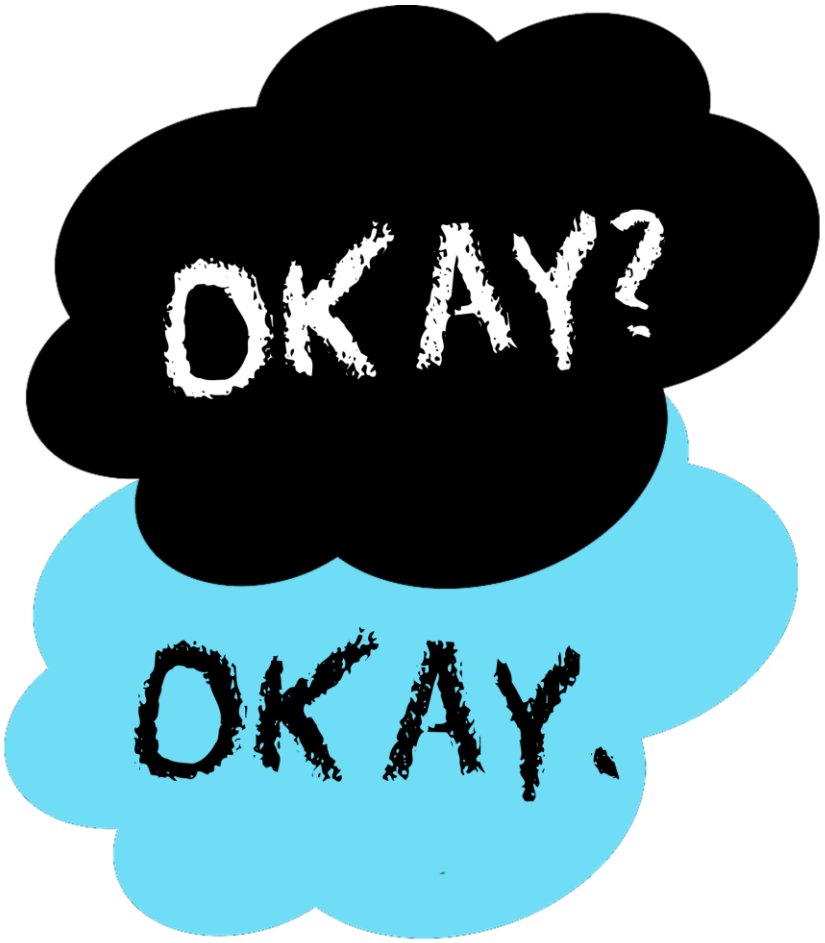
COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

for

THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

by
JOHN GREEN



"The fault dear Brutus is not in the stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings."…

... is a famous line from William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, (Act 1, Scene 2) wherein Cassius is attempting to persuade Brutus to take action against the tyrannical Caesar and join the rest of the senate in opposing Caesar even if it must be by murder. Cassius explains here that we do not have to accept fate (*the stars*) as it is, but rather that we ourselves must act to correct what fate has given us. Mr. Green's title, *The Fault in Our Stars*, outwardly implies that in the some situations the problem can lie within our "stars" and that little can be done to correct the situation we are forced to live with. Whereas Brutus has the ability to become master of his fate and correct the situation, Hazel unfortunately must accept the condition fate has given her and can only make the best of the situation. The plot therefore being laid in the title, we as readers will follow the story of Hazel and see how she lives with and handles the difficult situation which she has been dealt.

Why study *The Fault in Our Stars*?

The themes presented in *The Fault in Our Stars* can provide for hours of discussion and contemplation, easily tying in to many issues we may encounter in our lives... Furthermore, for students studying English as a second language, this engaging novel is equally as valuable in providing new vocabulary, comprehension practice through captivating, interesting and thoughtful reading.

The following pages of questions are designed to help the reader chapter by chapter in targeting the language, themes and events important for a comprehensive and fruitful reading of the novel.

How to proceed:

Simply read each chapter for as thorough an understanding as possible (paying special attention to vocabulary, expressions, slang and grammar. along the way.) Then once you've completed the chapter answer the corresponding questions in the book. Answering the questions should be easy, but if you find questions that are difficult, simply go back to that chapter and reread wherever necessary so that you can easily respond to the question. All answers are in the novel.

You may write your responses in this booklet, or you may want to create your own *The Fault in Our Stars* Reading Journal. There are many blank writing journals available for sale ranging from simple to fancy.

The most important!

The most important thing is to enjoy what you read. *The Fault in our Stars* can be quite an emotional and motivational novel. You'll find yourself turning page after page as you follow the events in the lives of our young characters.

So immerse yourself in English and Hazel's world in *The Fault in Our Stars*!

Other books by John Green: ***Looking for Alaska***
An Abundance of Katherines
Paper Towns

Visit Mr. Green's site at:
http://www.johngreenbooks.com/

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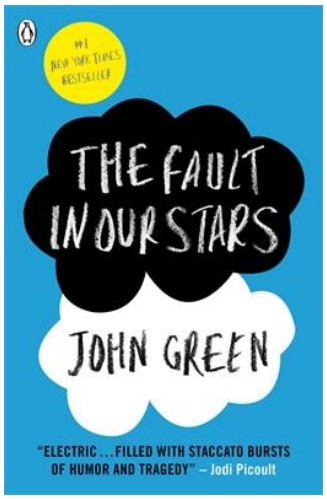

List of main characters

Hazel Grace Lancaster
Augustus (Gus) Waters
Peter Van Houten
Isaac
Mrs. Lancaster
Lidewij Vliegenthart

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CHAPTER 1

1. What kind of cancer did the group leader have? (p. 4)

2. What would Hazel rather be doing rather than attending the support group? (p. 6)

3. Why doesn't Hazel use the elevator? (p. 8)

4. What impending fate does Isaac face? (p. 10)

5. Why doesn't Hazel believe Michael when he says that he's *okay*? (p. xx)

6. What is the name of Hazel's third best friend? (p. 13)

7. Who is he?

8. What reason does Augustus give Hazel for starring at her? (p. 16)

9. Why did the cigarette make Hazel angry? (pp. 19-21)

10. How does Augustus justify his "use" of cigarettes? (pp. 20-21)

11. With information from the first chapter, describe Hazel.

Vocabulary:

Side effect (p.3)
To snort up (p.6)
Blow/blew (slang, p.6)
Mere (p.7)
To bite it (slang, p. 8)
Cankle (slang, p.9)
Gait (p.14)
PDA (slang, Public Display of Affection)

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CHAPTER 2

1. Where are Augustus and Hazel going? (p.22)

2. Who or what is Old Prosty? (p.23)

3. What is a "cancer perk"? (p.23)

4. What saved Hazel? (pp.25-26)

5. What is the reason for Hazel's vegetarian diet? (p.28)

6. In Hazel's opinion, why is *An Imperial Affliction* her favorite book? (p.34)

7. Describe Augustus.

Vocabulary:
Perk (p.23)
Sophomore (p.24)
GED (p.26)
Hurdles (p.31)
Disheartening (p.32)
Grab (p.34)
Novelization (p.34)

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CHAPTER 3

1. Based on the information given, explain a "half-birthday." (pp.40-41)

2. Where is Kaitlyn from? (p.42)

3. What excuse does Hazel give Kaitlyn for not continuing shopping with her? (p.45)

4. What does Hazel do instead? (pp.45-46)

5. What reason does Hazel give for preferring the companionship of children? (p.47)

Vocabulary:
Hue (p.40)
Clutch (p.41)
Cannula (p.46)

CHAPTER 4

1. What does Hazel ironically think about books about people with cancer? (p.48)

2. Why is this ironic?

3. How does *An Imperial Affliction* end? (p.49)

4. What is Augustus's reaction to *An Imperial Affliction*? (p.53)

5. What does Augustus's "sacrifice" in the video game explain about his personality? (p.59)

6. What is the significance of the word "always" between Monica and Isaac? (p.61)

Vocabulary:
Spoiler (p.51)
Flail (p.55)
Stomp (p.62)

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CHAPTER 5

1. Where did Hazel's parents meet? (p.65)

2. What surprise does Augustus have for Hazel? (p.67)

3. What does Hazel want to know from Mr. Van Houten? (p.70)

4. Who was Emily Dickinson? (p. 71) *A little research may be necessary…*

5. Explain what Augustus means when he says: "…no longer suffering from personhood." (p.72)

6. "Maybe *okay* will be our *always*." Explain the significance of this line. (p.73)

7. Why does Mr. Van Houten not want to answer Hazel's questions? (p.78)

8. How can Hazel get the answers she's seeking? (p.79)

9. What does Hazel's father caution Augustus about? (p.83)

10. As evidenced with his use of cigarettes, Augustus likes symbols and metaphors. What were the symbols he prepared for the Netherlands picnic? (pp.86-87)

11. What is the Genie Foundation? (p.80 & pp.89-90)

12. What is the culmination of Augustus's Netherlands picnic? (pp.89-90)

Vocabulary:
Swing set (p.66)
Re (p.66)
Ensnare (p.68)
Scant (p.68)
Kidding (p.74)
Squirt (p.76)
Crush *(slang)* (p.80)
Sheer (p.83)

CHAPTER 6

1. Why does Hazel say that her father would rather stay home? (p.92)

2. What is Hazel worried about where Augustus is concerned? (p.93)

3. How does Kaitlyn feel about Augustus? (p.94)

4. Why do you think the wall post from Caroline's friend upset Hazel? (p.97)

5. Why does Hazel liken herself to a grenade? (p.99)

6. Why is Hazel distancing herself from people? (pp.99-101)

Vocabulary:
Compartmentalize (p.97)
Twitterpate (p.98)
Scold (p.99)

CHAPTER 7

1. To what is Hazel referring when she said that she was "*…poked and stabbed and poisoned for years?*" (p.110)

2. What was the cause of Hazel's pain? (pp.106-107)

3. What does Hazel mean by the word "*undays*"? (p.108)

4. What is the author trying to accomplish in the story with the contrast of the style of Mr. Van Houten's writing and the general style of the novel? (pp. 112-113)

5. What is Mr. Van Houten's advice to Augustus where Hazel is concerned? (p.113, *last 3 sentences*)

Vocabulary:
ICU (p.106)
Vale (p.113)
To hang out (p.110

CHAPTER 8

1. What do the doctors say about Hazel's planned trip to Amsterdam? (p.117)

2. What are her parents' final decision concerning the trip? (p.117)

3. What secret do we learn about Augustus? (pp.118-119)

4. How does the BiPAP help Hazel? (p.119)

5. Explain the sentence; "*I mustn't let it kill me before it kills me*." (p.121)

6. How does Augustus respond to Hazel's efforts to distance herself emotionally? (p.122)

7. How much do Hazel and Augustus want to sell the swing set? (p.124)

8. The "sale" of Hazel's swing set can be metaphorically compared to what? (pp.120-128)

Vocabulary:
Edema (p.115)
To stay the course (p.115)
Nudge (p.122)
Ad (p.123)

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CHAPTER 9

1. How does Isaac know what's been going on in Hazel's life? (p.130)

2. What's special about Isaac's video game? (p.133)

3. When Augustus plays the video game with Isaac, what prevents him from winning? (p.134)

Vocabulary:
Sigh (p.131)
Skip (p.133)
Enamored (p.134)

CHAPTER 10

1. Why doesn't Hazel like to eat before dawn? (p.137)

2. What is the broader sense of the phrase "to pick your battles?" (p.138)

3. What step of independence does Hazel take at the airport? (p.142)

4. Why was Augustus nervous at take-off? (p.147)

5. For every person alive today there are 14 dead people. TRUE or FALSE (p.151)

6. How does Hazel respond to Augustus's profession of love? (pp.153-154)

Vocabulary:
To break out (p.137)
Eavesdrop (p.139)
To ride shotgun (p.140)
Bashful (p.153)

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CHAPTER 11

1. From where does the Hotel Filosoof take its name? (p.157)

2. What is "spring snow" in Amsterdam? (p.161)

3. What do Augustus and Hazel think of their dinner at the restaurant? What does Hazel privately thing? (pp.165-166)

4. What is the truth about the suit that Augustus is wearing in Amsterdam? (pp.166-167)

5. What does each of them believe concerning an *afterlife*? (p.168)

6. Where did Augustus meet Caroline? (pp.172-173)

7. Describe Caroline's personality according to Augustus? (pp.174-175)

8. Why did Augustus remain Caroline's boyfriend? (p.175)

Vocabulary:
Stretched (p.156)
Bedhead (p.159)
Lawn (p.162)
Crooked (p.165)
Afterlife (p.168)
Drown (p.172)
To dump s.o. (p.175)

CHAPTER 12

1. What is the irony displayed in Hazel's shirt? (p.178)

2. How does Mr. Van Houten feel about Americans? (p.181)

3. What does Mr. Van Houten notice about the way Hazel is dressed? (p.185)

4. What does Lidewij say about Mr. Van Houten's behavior? (p.188)

5. Why is Mr. Van Houten not able to answer Hazel's questions as to what happens to the characters of *An Imperial Affliction* after the novel ended? (pp.191-192)

6. For what is Lidewij sorry? (pp.196-197)

7. According to Hazel, what was the worst part about Anne Frank's death? (p.201)

8. How do you feel about Augustus's and Hazel's first kiss in the Anne Frank House? (pp.202-203)

9. What was Augustus self-conscious about? (p.206)

Vocabulary:
Drawback (p.178)
Numinous (p.189)
Whim (p.192)
To bow (p.204)
Lurch (p.205)
Blink (p.206)

CHAPTER 13

1. Why does Hazel believe that it's important not to cry in front of loved ones? (p.213)

2. What does Augustus reveal to Hazel? (pp.213-214)

3. What was the reason that Augustus was arguing with his parents the morning they left for Amsterdam? (p.215)

4. According to Augustus, why are there no paintings of "cancer kids" in the Rijksmuseum?

Vocabulary:
Tongue-tied (p.209)
Clench (p.213)
Con (p.216)

CHAPTER 14

1. What does Augustus suggest about the way Mr. Van Houten treated them? (p.221)

2. How did Hazel's mother and father learn about Augustus's recurrence? (p.222)

3. What did Augustus take Isaac to do? (pp.227-228)

Vocabulary:
Over my head (p.222)
Barf (p.224)
To egg (p.229)

CHAPTER 15

1. What is Augustus's condition? (p.231)

Vocabulary:
ER (p.231)
Damp (p.233)

CHAPTER 16

1. What is Augustus hoping to do for Hazel? (p.234)

2. Why does Hazel want to fake a choking incident? (pp.234-238)

Vocabulary:
G-tube (p.236)
Choke (p.237)
Puke (p.238)

CHAPTER 17

1. In what state did Hazel find Augustus? (p.239)

2. What does Hazel want Augustus to do for her that he won't be able to? (p.240)

Vocabulary:
Obituary (p.240)

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CHAPTER 18

1. When Hazel's phone rings, what news is she expecting to hear? (p.242)

2. Why doesn't Augustus want Hazel to call 911? (p.243)

3. Why was Augustus at the gas station?

4. What does Augustus mean by the phrase: "…to be someone's Peter Van Houten.?" (p.245)

Vocabulary: Mumble (p.244) Disgust (p.245)

CHAPTER 19

1. Where does Augustus sleep now? (p.248) What is the reason for the change?

2. What does Augustus's dad confide in Hazel? (p.252)

Vocabulary: Kneel down (p.250) Burden (p.251)
Laundry (p.248)

CHAPTER 20

1. Explain what *"a last good day"* is in the context of our characters' lives. (p.253)

2. What concerns do Hazel's parents express? (p.254)

3. In your own words, what has Augustus arranged at the *"Literal Heart of Jesus?"* (pp.257-260)

Vocabulary: Drag (p.254) Eulogy (p.254)

CHAPTER 21

1. The inevitable question: What news did Hazel receive at 3:30 a.m.? (p.261)

2. In what way does Hazel relate the pain of her cancer to the pain she's feeling now? (pp.262-263)

3. Why does the wall post, *"You'll live in our hearts forever."* upset Hazel? (p.264)

4. How does this event make you feel?

Vocabulary: Unbearable (p.262) Galled (p.264)

CHAPTER 22

1. Why does Hazel remove her oxygen? (p.269)

2. What does Hazel give Augustus? (p.270)

3. Why did Hazel get "pissed off" at the minister's speech? (p.271)

4. Who is unexpectedly seated behind Hazel? (p.271)

5. What "good news" did Augustus bring Isaac? (p.272)

6. What are the reasons Hazel doesn't want to go to the cemetery? (p.274)

7. Why did Mr. Van Houten come to Indiana? (p.276)

8. Why does Hazel not want to know what happened to the characters in Mr. Van Houten's novel? (pp.276-277)

Vocabulary:
Puppy love (p.269)
Coffin (p.268)
Lanky (p.269)
Horse crap (p.271)
Break even (p.275)
Pallbearer (p.274)

CHAPTER 23

1. What were Isaac and Hazel doing with the video game? (pp.279-280)

2. What news does Isaac tell Hazel? (p.282)

3. What surprise did Hazel find in her car outside of Isaac's house? (p.283)

4. Why did Mr. Van Houten act the way he did when Hazel and Augustus met him in Amsterdam? (p.286)

5. What was Hazel looking for at Augustus's house? (pp.288-291)

Vocabulary: Thrust (p.280) Curb (p.287)

CHAPTER 24

1. Did Hazel find what she was looking for at the support group? (pp.293-294)

2. Why did Hazel's mother not want her to know that she was working on her Master's degree? (pp.297-298)

3. What does Hazel make her parents promise and why? (p.299)

Vocabulary: Gutted (p.294) Revile (p.299)

CHAPTER 25

1. What does Hazel write Lidewij about? (pp.302-303)

2. What does Hazel's mom want to celebrate? (p.306)

3. What are the comparisons Augustus makes between Hazel and other people (humans)? (pp.310-313)

4. What do you personally find to be true in Augustus's letter to Mr. Van Houten?

Vocabulary:
Distract (p.304)
Teeming, (p.308)
Headstone (p.308)
Bequeath (p.310)

Good job! You have successfully completed all of the questions. Connecting to the story of this book is important, so take some time and write down your initial feelings after having finished the book.

…

Personal Notes and Thoughts

This is a very emotional story. Take some time to reflect and write down your own personal feelings, thoughts and observations.